

**Amendments to the Claims**

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using  
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

3 reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

4 storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least  
5 one or more items presented for purchase in a current transaction, such that the item-identifying  
6 RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a shopper can subsequently be  
7 searched to determine whether the at least one items were presented for purchase in the current  
8 transaction.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the customer identifier  
2 is read with an RFID reader from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty  
3 card.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the [[step]]  
2 steps of:

3 subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the shopper, the  
4 item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from  
5 the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and  
6 for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer  
7 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, concluding that the item to which the  
8 item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was at least some of one or more items possessed by a

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shopper were not paid for in the current transaction if the customer identifier is not present in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier; searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and concluding that one or more selected ones at least some of the one or more items possessed by [[a]] the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the searching step fails to locate the customer identifier is not present in the [[an]] RFID tag affixed to each such item the selected ones.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the customer identifier is read from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the one or more items[[.]] when the items [[were]] are presented for purchase during the particular purchase transaction, prior to operation of the searching concluding step.

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1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of  
2 remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an  
3 establishment in which ~~[[a]] the particular purchase transaction represented by the receipt was~~  
4 conducted, and wherein the searching and concluding steps ~~omit do not apply to the remembered~~  
5 items.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using  
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:  
3 means for reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and  
4 means for storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each  
5 of at least one or more items presented for purchase in a current transaction, such that the item-  
6 identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a shopper can  
7 subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one items were presented for purchase  
8 in the current transaction.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The system according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 8, wherein the customer  
2 identifier is read with an RFID reader from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer  
3 loyalty card.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The system according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 8, further comprising:  
2 means for subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the  
3 shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer

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4 identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and

5 for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer  
6 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, means for concluding that the item to  
7 which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was at least some of one or more items possessed  
8 by a shopper were not paid for in the current transaction if the customer identifier is not present  
9 in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.

Claim 11 (canceled)

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency  
2 identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3 means for reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer  
4 identifier; and

5 means for searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-  
6 identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the  
7 customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and

8 means for concluding that one or more selected ones at least some of the one or more  
9 items possessed by [[a]] the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the  
10 means for searching fails to locate the customer identifier is not present in the [[an]] RFID tag  
11 affixed to each such item the selected ones.

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[10]] 12, wherein the customer

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2 identifier is read from ~~[[an]]~~ a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): The system according to Claim ~~[[10]]~~ 12, further comprising  
2 means for storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the  
3 one or more items~~[[,]]~~ when the items ~~[[were]]~~ are presented for purchase during the particular  
4 purchase transaction, prior to operation of the means for ~~concluding~~ searching.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program product for preparing information usable in  
2 theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program  
3 product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for reading a customer identifier from a customer  
5 loyalty card; and

6 computer-readable program code means for storing the customer identifier in an item-  
7 identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one or more items presented for purchase in a  
8 current transaction, such that the RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a  
9 shopper can subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one items were presented  
10 for purchase in the current transaction.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim ~~[[13]]~~ 15,  
2 wherein the customer identifier is read with an RFID reader from ~~[[an]]~~ a loyalty card RFID tag  
3 affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim [[13]] 15,  
2 further comprising:

3 computer-readable program code means for subsequently searching, for each of the at  
4 least one items possessed by the shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to  
5 determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored  
6 therein; and

7 for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer  
8 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, computer-readable program code  
9 means for concluding that the item to which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was at least  
10 some of one or more items possessed by a shopper were not paid for in the current transaction if  
11 the customer identifier is not present in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer program product for detecting potential theft using  
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on  
3 one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for reading, from a customer loyalty card  
5 possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier; and

6 computer-readable program code means for searching, for each of at least one items  
7 possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether  
8 the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a  
9 particular purchase transaction; and

10 computer-readable program code means for concluding that one or more selected ones at

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11 ~~least some of the one or more items~~ possessed by ~~[[a]] the~~ shopper were not paid for in the  
12 particular purchase transaction if the computer-readable program code means for searching fails  
13 to locate the customer identifier is not present in the ~~[[an]]~~ RFID tag affixed to ~~each such item~~  
14 the selected ones.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim ~~[[16]]~~ 18,  
2 wherein the customer identifier is read from ~~[[an]]~~ a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the  
3 customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim ~~[[16]]~~ 18,  
2 further comprising computer-readable program code means for storing the customer identifier in  
3 the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of ~~the one or more items~~ ~~[[,]]~~ when the items  
4 ~~[[were]]~~ are presented for purchase during the particular purchase transaction, prior to operation  
5 of the computer-readable program code means for ~~concluding~~ searching.

Claim 21 (canceled)

1 Claim 22 (new): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means for remembering  
2 each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in  
3 which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the means for searching  
4 and means for concluding omit the remembered items.

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1 Claim 23 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 18, further comprising  
2 computer-readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's  
3 possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which the particular purchase  
4 transaction was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for  
5 searching and computer-readable program code means for concluding omit the remembered  
6 items.